

## Selected Coverage May 2009

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **National**

All About Jazz  
The Boston Globe  
Boston Musical Intelligencer  
Broadway World  
Cleveland Plain Dealer  
Fort Worth Star Telegram  
Fresno Bee  
The New York Times  
St. Louis Business Journal  
Tulsa World  
The Washington Post

#### **Local & Regional**

Batavia Daily News  
City Newspaper  
Democrat & Chronicle  
MPNnow.com  
Rochester Business Journal  
Utica Observer-Dispatch  
RNews  
13 WHAM-TV  
WHEC-TV 10

#### **Other**

Greensboro News Record  
Stockton Record  
Villages Daily Sun  
The Plainville Citizen  
13 WOWK-TV

#### *The New York Times (May 19)*

##### **Philip Glass, in the Round and Seated**

The conductor Brad Lubman formed the new-music chamber orchestra Signal just over a year ago, and it is already considered one of the most vital groups of its kind. Its specialty is music by composers who were once called Minimalists but who have discouraged that label for the last couple of decades. Philip Glass is a charter member of that club, and on Sunday evening, Signal devoted a concert at Le Poisson Rouge to his Symphony No. 3 (1995) and the Suite from "The Hours" (2003). (Note: Brad Lubman is associate professor of conducting and ensembles and director of Eastman *Music Nova* at the **Eastman School of Music**.)

#### *The Washington Post (May 26)*

##### **Conservatory Groups Deliver Nuances Beyond Their Years**

The University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** also placed their expectations on the shoulders of a single ensemble -- a woodwind quintet called Arabesque Winds -- which performed a challenging 20th-century program for Eastman's slot in the project on Friday. Once again, the musicians were a mix of undergraduates and a recent graduate. And, once again, they played with skill and depth beyond their years. Solos in Hindemith's "Kleine Kammermusik" showcased the musicians' individual talents, which were formidable (as their bios -- already full of touring, recordings and gigs as principal players in Upstate New York orchestras -- would lead you to expect). But it was the unanimity of their ensemble phrasing that took the breath away, particularly in the manic scales chasing up and down the staff and ping-ponging from instrument to instrument in Eugene Bozza's "Scherzo."

#### *The Boston Globe (May 31)*

##### **Scaling back, festival finds its voice in 'Poppea'**

Like car companies, music festivals have been revising production goals in response to the recession. Even the well-established and highly esteemed Boston Early Music Festival, a biennial June event that attracts thousands of passionate fans from all corners of the world to a dazzling array of concerts, workshops, and symposia in venues around the city, has done some creative sash-tightening for its 2009 edition, running June 6-14.

Originally, the centerpiece of this year's BEMF was to have been the first performances since 1708 of the opera "Antiochus and Stratonica," by the German composer Christoph Graupner. BEMF artistic co-directors Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs and stage director Gilbert Blin spent nearly two years researching and preparing the production. A cast of international star singers was engaged and contracted to perform in this extravagant spectacle, which requires well over 100 performers, 150 costumes, and a large orchestra with 40 players.

"It was becoming clear that our fund-raising situation was going to result in a large shortfall and we would not be able to do justice to this piece," O'Dette explained recently by phone from Rochester, N.Y., where he teaches at the **Eastman School of Music**. "But we already had a contracted cast with an unusual constellation of singers. How could we still use them, protect our reputation, and create the same kind of buzz?"

After many evenings of brainstorming they found a solution: "The Coronation of Poppea," by Claudio Monteverdi. "This was the opera that best fit the cast that was already hired," said O'Dette.

#### *13WHAM-TV (May 12)*

##### **Eastman Expanding**

Despite a higher price tag and some delays, renovations to the **Eastman Theater and School of Music** are continuing. The \$46 million project includes a new addition to the school of music, plus improvements to the theater. George Eastman would be proud. The movie theater he built in 1922 will now be transformed into the Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater.

***Cleveland Plain Dealer (May 3)***

**35 Finalists chosen for Cleveland International Piano Competition**

Thirty-five pianists from 14 countries will take part in the 2009 Cleveland International Piano Competition, which will be held Tuesday, July 28, to Sunday, Aug. 9, at the Cleveland Play House and Severance Hall.

The screening jury consisted of Paul Schenly, artistic director of the competition and chairman of the piano department at the Cleveland Institute of Music; Douglas Humpherys, professor of piano and chair of the piano department at the **Eastman School of Music**; and Dina Yoffe, professor at the Anton Rubinstein International Academy in Dusseldorf, Germany, who will serve on the competition jury this summer (as she did in 2007).

***The Fresno Bee (May 4)***

**Program tunes up late-blooming musicians**

When she was in sixth grade, Janet Hill left the auditorium after her school's annual orchestra concert and threw up. Nerves were too much for her. ... She played until college came and then decided she would never play in a band again. And she didn't — not for 55 years. Not until a few months ago when she found the New Horizons music program, which teaches music to adults 50 and older who have never played or who haven't played in a long time. ... A pressure-free atmosphere is what Archie Rader, who founded New Horizons in Fresno and directs the beginning band, hoped for when he started the program. His goal was simply to give people — regular people, not music pros — a chance to play music.

New Horizons isn't something Rader came up with. It's a program happening in more than 150 cities around the country, started in 1991 by Dr. Roy Ernst of the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y.

***The Waterloo Record, Ontario, Canada (May 5)***

**Festival trumpets the community band**

Yesterday was Music Monday, a celebration of the galvanizing power of music in Canada and a demonstration of how that power is rooted in

school music programs. ... Another defining element is an association with New Horizons International, a rapidly expanding movement dedicated to providing entry points to music making for adults. ... Dr. Roy Ernst from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, who founded New Horizons in 1991, will be keynote speaker.

***Greensboro News Record (May 5)***

**High Point honors famous native son**

On Monday, renowned tenor Anthony Dean Griffey received a standing ovation from the hometown where his vocal talent took root. Mayor Becky Smothers and the High Point City Council presented him with a resolution "in recognition of his outstanding talent and for bringing international recognition for the city of High Point." The plaque will hang in the High Point Theatre.

Griffey, 42, has received acclaim for his performances in operas and concerts in the United States and abroad. In February, he took home two Grammy Awards for best classical album and best opera recording. He won for the cast recording of Los Angeles Opera's production of Kurt Weill's "Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny." His voice took him from High Point's public schools to study at Wingate University, **Eastman School of Music** and The Juilliard School in New York.

***Batavia Daily News (May 5)***

**Eastman woodwind quintet concert is preview of Kennedy Center performance**

Arabesque Winds, a woodwind quintet of **Eastman School of Music** musicians, has added another award to its resume. The ensemble has won the Coleman-Saunderson Prize for Woodwinds and Brass in the 63rd annual Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition.

The award comes on the eve of the quintet's May 22 recital in Washington, D.C., where Arabesque Winds is representing Eastman in the prestigious Conservatory Project of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

### **13 WOWK-TV (May 6)**

#### **WV Music Hall Of Fame Announces Inductees**

This year's inductees in the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame is a class of 7. Four are living and three are deceased.

Larry Combs. Born 1939. South Charleston, Kanawha County. One of the world's leading orchestral clarinetists, Larry Combs has also been active in chamber music and in the Chicago jazz scene. He began to play clarinet in Charleston at the age of 10 and, by the time he was 13 had a strong enough technique and reputation that he was regularly asked by the Charleston Symphony to play with them when an additional clarinet was needed and, at age 16, he was the orchestra's principal clarinetist. . . . During the summer, he attended the National Music Camp at Interlochen, MI, where he worked with professional musicians and the most talented musicians from around the country in his age group. In 1957, he entered the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, NY, where he was a pupil of Stanley Hasty, a leading clarinet teacher. After graduating from Eastman, Combs joined the New Orleans Philharmonic as third clarinet/bass clarinet player.

In 1968, Combs became Principal of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and, in 1974, he joined the clarinet section of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, one of the leading orchestra's in the world. In 1978, the orchestra's music director appointed him Principal Clarinet. As such, Combs can be heard playing on two decades worth of the CSO records in virtually every important solo clarinet passage. He has won two Grammy Awards for "Best Chamber Music Performance."

### **Fort Worth Star Telegram (May 7)**

#### **Cliburn alumni: Where are they now?**

There's no "use by" expiration date on a piano career. Some artists enjoy years in the limelight; others toil fruitfully out of the public eye. Becoming a contestant at the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition historically has been the gateway to any number of careers — as concert artist, chamber musician, university professor, festival administrator, or, in the case of Diane Walsh, Broadway star.

Teachers and performers: Barry Snyder (silver, 1966) is professor of piano at the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester.

### **BerkMontNews (May 7)**

#### **Reardon enjoys lifetime of making music**

Edward "Chip" Reardon has been blind since birth but he didn't let that stop him from pursuing his passion for playing the organ. Reardon has been playing the organ for 50 years. . . . at the age of 13, he had already been playing the piano for 10 years, imitating songs from records and learning by ear, so he was more than capable of learning how to play the instrument that composer Igor Stravinsky once dubbed "the monster that never breathes." . . . Reardon graduated from Overbrook School for the Blind in 1965, then went on to earn his Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College in Ohio. . . . In 1969, he earned a Fulbright scholarship to Frankfurt, Germany where he studied organ under Professor Helmut Walcha, who was also blind and considered one of the world's foremost authorities on North European baroque keyboard music. Reardon went on to receive both Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** at the University of Rochester in New York, and his doctorate degree included a triple major in organ, piano, and composition.

### **Stockton Record (May 10)**

#### **Meet the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet**

Here's a quick look at members of the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet — which was named the country's best college jazz group in the June edition of Downbeat magazine — and their musical director:

Joe Gilman is music director of the Brubeck Institute's Fellowship Program. He's a professor of music at American River College in Sacramento, and music director of Capital Jazz Project. He has bachelor's degrees in classical piano and jazz studies at Indiana University, a master's degree in jazz and contemporary media from the **Eastman School of Music** and a doctoral degree in education from the University of Sarasota. He's performed with Eddie Harris, Bobby Hutcherson, Woody Shaw, Marlena Shaw, Richie Cole, George Duke.

### ***Hudson Hub-Times (May 10)***

#### **Stow Orchestra concert highlights Ohio premiere**

The Stow Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Music Director Darrell Lee Music, will present its Spring concert at the Stow Presbyterian Church, 4150 Fishcreek Road (just north of Graham Road), Stow, at 7:30 p.m. on May 16. The evening's featured soloist, Bryan Dumm, cellist, will present Camille Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor. Mr. Dumm, a 22-year veteran with The Cleveland Orchestra, is the fourth Cleveland Orchestra member to perform with the Stow Symphony. He has been featured in numerous international performances with a variety of ensembles such as The Cleveland Octet, the Briosso String Quartet, and the Myriad Ensemble, and has been soloist with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra. He holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees and a Performer's Certificate from the **Eastman School of Music**, and is currently on the faculties of The Cleveland Institute of Music and Cleveland State University.

### ***The Boston Musical Intelligencer (May 11)***

#### **Houston Symphony Welcomes International Students for 2009 Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition**

The annual Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition approaches this year's semifinal and final rounds, having attracted one of the largest applicant pools in the competition's history. Taped auditions were submitted by 111 musicians between the ages of 16 and 29. Ten of those individuals will travel to Houston next month to participate in the semi-final round on June 4, 2009, and hopefully move on to the finals on June 6.

#### **2009 Ima Hogg Young Artist Competition Semifinalists**

A graduate of the Yale School of Music and University of Southern California, pianist Clara Yang currently studies at the **Eastman School of Music**.

### ***MPNnow.com (May 12)***

#### **RPO director to receive honorary doctorate**

Christopher Seaman, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's musical director since 1997, will

receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree during the University of Rochester's 84th annual commencement ceremony at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, May 17. Seaman is also a globetrotting guest conductor and has had regular engagements in Eastern Europe, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, and in his native Great Britain. He has received city-wide recognition for building the prestige of the RPO and establishing strong connections between the RPO and the **Eastman School of Music**.

### ***Utica Observer-Dispatch (May 13)***

#### **With trombone in hand, Kellogg returns to alma mater**

Music students at Whitesboro High School were a little distracted during band rehearsal Tuesday afternoon.

That's because it's not every day they get to practice with a professional musician from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mark Kellogg, a 1982 graduate of the high school who plays principal trombone for the orchestra, returned to his alma mater Tuesday to rehearse with multiple ensembles at the high school. Later in the week, he'll work with middle school students.

Kellogg, who's also an associate professor at the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music**, said regardless of the age of the student he works with, he strives to make lessons fun and put meaning behind the music. "I'm looking forward to answering their questions in the rest of the week," Kellogg said. "Maybe they'll even have questions about careers in music."

### ***All About Jazz (May 13)***

#### **Take Five With Damon Zick**

Damon Zick and Friends play their own unique brand of original jazz, emphasizing melody, groove and communication. Damon's compositions provide an eclectic wealth of departure points for some top-notch improvisation. The band formed 15 years ago while members were attending the prestigious **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, NY.

*Ithaca Journal (May 14)*

**International Mayfest returns to Ithaca  
Festival will traverse four centuries of  
chamber music**

Guest musicians will include the Cuarteto Casals from Barcelona, Spain, Russian bass Aleksandr Wasilyew, currently a resident of Germany, violist Wendy Richman who has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in this country and throughout Europe, and Frank Huang, newly announced leader of the Ying Quartet at the **Eastman School of Music**.

*South Bend Tribune (May 16)*

**Linden String Fischoff champs**

The Linden String Quartet won the 2009 Fischoff National Chamber Music Competition's grand prize on May 10. .... In the senior wind division, the Red Line Saxophone Quartet from **Eastman School of Music**, Rochester, N.Y., won the gold medal. (*Also reported by the Daily News, Dowagiac, Mich.*)

*Westchester.com (May 17)*

**Purchase Dean's Book Wins Sporting News  
Award**

Bob Thompson, Valhalla, NY, Interim Dean of Music at Purchase College, is a winner of the Sporting News Award for 2008 presented by the Society for American Baseball Research for the book *Baseball's Greatest Hit: The Story of Take Me Out To The Ball Game*, which he co-authored with Andy Strasberg and Tim Wiles. ....

Bob Thompson is a conductor, professor, writer, producer, and Interim Dean of Music at Purchase College. Prior to arriving at Purchase College, Thompson was for ten years the Chief Executive Officer and President of Universal Edition, a classical music publishing company and also produced and performed on two Grammy nominated recordings. He has a doctorate in music from the University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** and has conducted the Houston, Seattle, Detroit, Phoenix and Chicago Symphony Orchestras among others.

*Villages Daily Sun, Lake County, Florida*

*(May 18)*

**Tuscany House benefits from a gift of music  
from Villagers**

Beautiful violin music fills the air as Carol Cohan plays for a small gathering of friends from her hospice room at Tuscany House. Her blue eyes twinkle as she draws the bow over the strings of her 70-year-old violin, the instrument that she happily watched her father buy for her when she was a 7-year-old. That is when her love for music began, Cohan recalled. Her love for music has never waned.

The Village of Calumet Grove resident has stage 4 lung cancer and is thankful for the care that Hospice of Marion County provides her and other patients staying at Tuscany House, the 24-bed Hospice House facility located one mile north of The Villages. ....

Cohan grew up in Cincinnati, where she received her doctorate of musical arts in viola from the College-Conservatory of Music. She received her master's degree in violin from **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y., and her bachelor's from Miami University of Ohio, where she had her first orchestra experience with the Dayton Philharmonic.

She played professionally with Leopold Stokowski in the Houston Symphony, with Max Rudolph in the Cincinnati Symphony, and performed in the backup groups for Judy Garland, Jack Benny, Roberta Peters and others. Cohan and Fuenzalida co-founded the Naples Philharmonic, with Cohan the executive director and principal violin, while Fuenzalida was the music director/conductor.

*Broadway World (May 19)*

**Maltz Jupiter's Emerging Artist Series**

**Selection Academy Chosen For NYMT Fest**

John Mercurio is the recipient of an award from the Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation and a Commendation Award from the Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla Musical Theater Foundation for his work in musical theatre. This past summer, Mercurio's new musical *Myth* was developed at the 2008 O'Neill Music Theater Conference, where he received The Georgia Holof Lyricist Award for his work. Mercurio received degrees from the **Eastman School of Music** and NYU

and was a member of the BMI Advanced Musical Theatre Workshop.

#### ***Democrat and Chronicle (May 19)***

##### **Randy Kazandy visits Canandaigua kids**

##### **Children's book author returns to roots**

When Rhonda Fischer recently returned to the Canandaigua Elementary School where she was a student more than four decades ago, almost all the students who filled the auditorium to hear Fischer read her new children's book wore eyeglasses. Most were handmade from construction paper. Some were plastic. Others were the real thing.

This sign of solidarity showed Fischer that the students understood the message of *Randy Kazandy, Where Are Your Glasses?* "Randy Kazandy has a motto. And the motto is, 'I love being me,'" said Fischer, 54, who now lives in Trabuco Canyon, Calif.

Fischer, who attended the **Eastman School of Music** after graduating from Canandaigua Academy, also teaches piano — which may be why her prose has a musical ring.

#### ***WHEC TV-10 (May 20)***

##### **Local student competes in prestigious piano competition**

An **Eastman School of Music** junior is gearing up for one of the biggest events of her life. Zhang Zuo (ZZ) is in Fort Worth, Texas right now. She is taking part in the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, where you have to be invited to sit down in front of the judges there. Her progress can be tracked in real time via a webcast. The first preliminary round is this Friday. ZZ will perform a 50-minute solo recital. (Also reported by the *Batavia Daily News*.)

#### ***MPNnow.com (May 20)***

##### **Eastman offers summer programs**

The Eastman School of Music invites musicians of all ages to join their summer music programs. "Summer at Eastman" offers more than 40 courses to musicians of every skill level. Programs begin June 28 and continue into the beginning of August. A full listing of Summer Session offerings is available at [www.esm.rochester.edu/summer](http://www.esm.rochester.edu/summer). For more information, call (585) 274-1400 or 1-800-246-4706.

#### ***Catholic Courier (May 22)***

##### **Rochester's St. Mary Church celebrates 175 years**

The fact that St. Mary Parish is the same age as the City of Rochester — 175 years old — didn't escape notice during a parish birthday celebration. . . . The parish also is home to the Downtown Community Forum, which hosts discussion on current topics, including many urban issues. Many city festivals and celebrations have begun with Masses at St. Mary. Musicians from Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** are very involved in St. Mary's music ministry.

#### ***New York Press (May 22)***

##### **Respect, Find Out What It Means**

While it may initially seem heavy-handed to say so, it is in fact only fair to suggest that the Respect Sextet may be standing at the gateway to jazz's future. Like a grinning, laughing, joking musical juggernaut, Respect glides between traditional and avant-garde stylings with fearsome dexterity and poise, moving in tandem not unlike a large, predatory bird — only one that's armed with a boatload of toy instruments and also smiles a lot.

Many are the reasons that this NYC-based group, which originally formed nine years ago at the **Eastman School of Music in Rochester** (home to this writer), stands to elevate the art form, transcend its limitations and deliver it to new audiences.

#### ***Rochester Business Journal (May 28)***

##### **Eastman Theatre celebrates construction milestone**

The University of Rochester's **Eastman School of Music** held a ceremony Thursday as the final beam of steel was placed at the construction site for an expansion project. Attendees signed the beam and a percussion group played the beam as an instrument before it was raised. In 2007 the school announced a major renovation of the Eastman Theatre, and later that year announced construction of a new building for teaching and performance at the corner of Main and Swan Streets. The renovated theater is due for completion in October, while the new building is to be completed in fall 2010. (Also reported by *WXXI, WROC TV*)

### ***Tulsa World (May 28)***

#### **What we found out about Found**

##### **Harptallica**

This act showcases Metallica songs like none other. As the name implies, Harptallica arrangements are done with large harps. Many critics agree, the metal master that Harptallica mimics does write music in a "classical" way — it's highly intricate and imbued with darkened emotion. Harptallica proves those critics right with their interpretations of "Battery," "Master of Puppets," "Enter Sandman," "One," "Fade to Black" and more. The outfit started several years ago when frontwoman Ashley Lancz Toman, a grad student at the **Eastman School of Music**, arranged "Fade to Black" for two harps. Soon, it turned into 10 Metallica tunes and a CD, "Harptallica: A Tribute." The group also has expanded its reach to cover Black Sabbath and Megadeth.

### ***Democrat & Chronicle (May 29)***

#### **Two Eastman teachers quarantined in China for exposure to swine flu**

Two **Eastman School of Music** faculty members have been quarantined in Guangzhou, China, after sitting near an airline passenger infected with swine flu. The teachers, whose names have not been released, will be confined to their hotel rooms for at least another four days, said Eastman spokeswoman Bobbi Lonobile. They were on a May 24 flight from JFK Airport in New York City to Beijing, part of a cultural exchange program with six other Eastman musicians. It is not known how many others in this group shared Sunday's flight. (*Also reported by WROC-TV*)

### ***St. Louis Business Journal (May 29)***

#### **Gene Dobbs Bradford**

Gene Dobbs Bradford tripled the budget at Jazz St. Louis since he took over as executive director of the nonprofit a decade ago, growing it to \$1.2 million last year. . . . His work on that front takes a page from the Saint Louis Symphony business plan. Not a surprise, given that he was the symphony's production manager before joining Jazz St. Louis. Bradford's also a performer — mostly playing the blues on his harmonica, and occasionally the double bass, where he has his formal training, including a degree from the **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, N.Y.

### ***The Plainville Citizen (May 29)***

#### **Music educator receives Teacher of the Year Award**

Plainville Community Schools has named Middle School of Plainville music teacher Todd Helming the 2009-10 Teacher of the Year. . . . Helming, a Berlin resident, attended the Göteborg International Organ Academy in Göteborg, Sweden, holds a bachelor of music degree from the **Eastman School of Music**, and a master of music degree from the University of Connecticut.

### ***R-News (May 31)***

#### **Quarantine Ending For Eastman Professors**

Two professors from the Eastman School are being released from quarantine in China. The Chinese government put the faculty members under quarantine after they sat near a swine flu infected passenger on a plane. The two musicians were part of a group of eight from the **Eastman School** on a tour of Chinese conservatories. New York Senator Chuck Schumer had been in contact with American officials in China and pushed for a quick release. The professors are being released two days earlier than expected. (*Also reported by the Democrat & Chronicle*)

### ***Batavia Daily News (May 31)***

#### **Eastman pianist hits right notes at Van Cliburn**

#### **Though she's bypassed by judges for next round**

Not even the unexpected accompaniment of a wayward phone could slow pianist Zhang Zuo at the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. By most accounts, Zuo, 20, a rising senior at **Eastman School of Music** in Rochester, turned in strong performances last Saturday for each piece in her 50-minute preliminary-round recital. Still, she was not among the 12 semifinalists announced Wednesday, which surprised some observers of the competition.

Olin Chism, writing for North Texas public broadcaster KERA's Art&Seek blog identified Zhuo as one of three performers that he would have selected for the semifinal round. Chism writes: "So who were the three pianists who, if there were any justice in this world, would have advanced but were unaccountably overlooked by the jury? Ning Zhou, Zhang Zuo and Natacha Kudritskaya." Of Zhang Zuo, he wrote: "Zuo's

Haydn sonata and Liszt B minor sonata ... linger in memory.” . . .

Zuo, a Liberace scholar at Eastman, had to pass an extensive screening process in order to be selected for the Van Cliburn Competition, a quadrennial event that is one of the most prestigious in the world. She was one of 225 pianists worldwide who submitted written applications, from which just more than 150 applicants were selected to participate in screening audition recitals. Zuo auditioned live in New York City in February and was announced as one of the competitors at the beginning of March.

*(Note: There are numerous references every day in the media identifying musicians and scholars as Eastman School of Music alumni or current or former faculty; this report includes selected clippings.)*